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ing the author ; while the latter is greatly enlarged in size, and consequently in expense, by a multiplicity of notes, the principal object of which is, to settle by argument and authorities the true reading of the text.

In the present edition, which is a republication of Oberlin's text, the editor has, very judiciously we think, omitted most of the critical notes, while he retains those, which are explanatory, adding many others of the same character, principally from Brotier. He has also inserted from Brotier the pedigree of the Cæsars, with short biographical notes to each name ; containing in the whole nearly fifty pages, together with a very copious historical index. He has omitted the index latinitatis ; because, we presume, it was thought to be rendered unnecessary by the explanations in the notes. We are thus furnished with an edition of Tacitus, which, while it offers to the student all the helps, he can desire, is without any of the voluminous appendages of, to us at least, unnecessary learning ; and promises, so far as we can judge, to be more useful, than any with which we are at present acquainted. We repeat, that we think the publick already much indebted to the talents, classical learning and taste of the editor of this work ; and we earnestly hope, the publishers will find in a liberal patronage sufficient inducement to add, in due time, to those of Cicero and Tacitus, editions of Quintilian and Livy, and if possible all the best Latin classicks, which will, beside their intrinsick merit, have, to every American, the strong recommendation, that they are our own.

ART. XI. *History of the United States, from their first settlement as English Colonies, in 1607, to the year 1808, or the thirty third of their sovereignty and independence. By David Ramsay, M. D. Continued to the Treaty of Ghent, by S. S. Smith, D. D. and LL. D. and other literary gentlemen. 3 vols. 8vo. Philadelphia, M. Carey, 1816.*

ANY historical work, from the pen of Dr. Ramsay, has a high claim to respect. His character, as an historian, is too well established, either to need proof, or to require comment. Whoever had read his History of the American Revolution, or his History of South Carolina, could not fail to take up the volumes before us with more than ordinary

expectation. Such, at least, was ours ; and to say, that we have read them with interest and pleasure, were but faint commendation. No American, who loves his country, could, after the perusal, say less. It were easy to characterize the work generally and honourably ; but general characteristics, as it has been observed of ‘ general discourses,’ are, ‘ for the most part like large prospects, where the eye is lost by the wide compass it takes, and sees so many things at once, that it sees nothing distinctly.’ Nor do we sit down merely to praise. The reviewer, not less than the historian, is bound to the observance of laws, which cannot be violated with impunity. There are canons of criticism, as well as of history, an ignorance or contempt of which must render commendations and strictures alike insignificant. One precept, in the critical code, we mean not to forget ;

‘ With mean complacency ne’er betray your trust,
Nor be so civil, as to prove unjust.’

The Memoir of Dr. Ramsay, prefixed to this work, is too interesting to be passed over unnoticed. We all love to know something of the *man*, as well as of the author. By this well written Memoir it appears, that Dr. Ramsay was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1749, and educated at Princeton college ; that he afterwards commenced the practice of physick in Maryland, where he continued to practise with much reputation for about a year, and then removed to Charleston, South Carolina, where ‘ he rapidly rose to eminence in his profession and general respect.’ ‘ In our revolutionary struggle, he was a decided and active friend of his country, and of freedom ; and was one of the earliest and most zealous advocates of American independence. From the declaration of independence, to the termination of the war, he was a member of the legislature of the state of South Carolina.’ In 1782 and in 1785, he was elected a member of the continental congress ; and for one year discharged the important duties of president *pro tempore* ‘ with much ability, industry, and impartiality.’

As an historian, ‘ he was above prejudice, and absolute master of passion.’ Who else could have dwelt upon the merits of the revolution, and ‘ told an unvarnished tale ?’ We may speak calmly of the times that have long since passed by, and of events in which we have no concern ; but when we speak of

the times in which we live, or of events concerning which we can say with Æneas,

—quæque ipse miserrima vidi,
Et quorum pars magna fui,

it is almost impossible to write or speak without prejudice ; yet such was the noble victory obtained by the American historian over himself.' It was his opinion, ' that a historian should be an impartial recorder of past events for the information of after ages ; and by this opinion he was always governed.' ' In society he was a most agreeable companion ; his memory was stored with an infinite fund of interesting or amusing anecdotes, which gave great sprightliness and zest to his conversation.' It is but justice in *us* to record, what is omitted in the Memoir, but what, *we* know, was worthy to be written in marble, his courteous and philanthropick offices to strangers. He was equally ready to afford medical assistance to the invalid, seeking health in the mild climate of Carolina ; and kindly encouragement to the literary adventurer, seeking employment in the state. In his character were blended the finest traits of the British Howard, and the Roman Mæcenas.

' As a husband, as a father, and in every domestick relation of life, he was alike exemplary. The closing scene of his life was alone wanting to put a seal to his character. He fell by the hand of an assassin, whom he had never wronged, but whom, on the contrary, he had humanely endeavoured to serve. If harmlessness of manners, suavity of temper, and peaceableness of deportment—if a heart glowing with benevolence, and a disposition to do good to all men, are characteristics that would promise to any one security, he had not, on all these grounds, the least cause to apprehend, or guard against hostility. The fatal wound was received in the open street, and at noon-day, under circumstances of horror, calculated to appal the stoutest heart ; yet the unfortunate victim was calm and self-possessed.'

' Having been carried home, and being surrounded by a crowd of anxious citizens, after first calling their attention to what he was about to utter, he said, ' I know not if these wounds be mortal ; I am not afraid to die ; but should that be my fate, I call on all here present to bear witness, that I consider the unfortunate perpetrator of this deed a lunatick, and free from guilt.' During the two days that he lingered on the bed of death, he alone could survey, without emotion, the

approaching end of his life. Death had for him no terrors ; and, on Monday, the 8th of May, 1815, about seven in the morning,

‘ He gave his honours to the world again,
His blessed part to heaven, and slept in peace.’

The principal publications of Dr. Ramsay were, *The History of the Revolution in South Carolina*, published in 1785 ; the *History of the American Revolution*, published in 1790 ; the *Life of Washington*, published in 1801 ; a *Review of the improvements, progress, and state of medicine in the eighteenth century* ; the *History of South Carolina*, published in 1808 ; a *Biographical Chart*, to facilitate the study of History ; and *Memoirs of Mrs. Ramsay*, published in 1811. A short time before his death, he had committed to the press ‘ *A brief History of the Independent or Congregational Church in Charleston.*’ This work, if published, has not yet reached us. It must be interesting to the christian community. The early settlement of this church, and the respectable character of its ministers, particularly Cotton, Smith, Tennent, Hollinshead, and Keith, give it claims to particular notice. ‘ To this church,’ it is observed in the Memoir, ‘ Dr. Ramsay had, from his youth, been strongly attached ; and this little history was meant as a tribute of his affection.’

His ‘ last and greatest work,’ in the opinion of his biographer, is a *Universal History*, not yet published, but which, for upwards of forty years, he had been preparing for the press. It was to consist of a series of volumes, which, when finished, were to be entitled ‘ *Universal History Americanised, or a Historical View of the world, from the earliest records to the 19th century, with a particular reference to the state of society, literature, religion, and form of government in the United States of America.*’ Such an *Universal History* is thought to be ‘ a desideratum in literature. If the execution be equal to the design, this work will be worthy of a place in the library of every respectable man in the United States, and will greatly add to the permanent literary reputation of the nation.’

The work before us was designed to be an extension of the plan of the author’s *History of the American Revolution*, ‘ so as to comprehend the history of the colonies, anterior to that event ;’ but the reader is apprised, that he ‘ may expect no more of the colonial history of the British provinces, than

what is general, and, in some respects, common to the whole, and necessary to a proper view of the revolution. All that was valuable in the author's history of the American revolution, is incorporated in this work. To it a view of the civil and military history of the colonies anterior to the revolution is prefixed; and a history of the United States, from the peace of 1783 to the year 1808, is subjoined. From the last period, the history is continued to the close of the late war, by the Rev. Dr. Smith, late president of the college in New Jersey, and other literary gentlemen.

Our respect for the author, and sympathies with his orphan family, induce us to subjoin the following Note, which bespeaks a patronage, that will be not less honourary to the one, than kindly to the other. 'The profits of this work are to be applied exclusively to the education and support of the numerous family of the author, whose only patrimony is the reputation of their father and his valuable manuscripts. Dr. Ramsay left eight children, four sons and four daughters; of these, all the sons are minors. It is to be hoped that the generous feelings of the American people will be excited in behalf of the family of a man, whose whole life was devoted to the service of his country.'

The plan of the first volume is well adapted to its professed design, which was, to give a general view of colonial history, antecedently to the American revolution. In the execution, however, there is no proportionate regard to the several colonies. Maryland, for example, occupies but four pages, and South Carolina but one page and a half, while New Hampshire fills out nearly fifty pages, too great a proportion, of which is a transcript from Belknap's details of Indian wars and depredations. Where the history of a colony is wanting, a general historian has a good apology for brevity. The early history of Maryland by Bozman, published in 1814, came out, probably, too late to enrich that article. For South Carolina the author refers us to his own history of that state; but, though delicacy might restrain him from repeating much of what he had before published, concerning the state to which he belonged, a fuller view, even here, of so important a colony were desirable. A thorough knowledge of American history cannot, indeed, be obtained, but from the local histories of the several colonies; yet, in a retrospective survey of them, with reference to their ultimate formation into independent states, some regard should be had to their intrinsic and relative importance.

The materials of this volume are drawn from authentick sources. Dr. Ramsay was well acquainted with the primitive history of New England, and rose above provincial prejudices. He was neither beguiled by the general accuracy of Chalmers, to imbibe his prepossessions; nor seduced by the classick elegance of Robertson, to copy his mistakes. If the reader be merely inquisitive after historical truth, he may be satisfied with an assurance, that the author has been careful and judicious in the selection of his authorities, though he has seldom seen fit to name them. Such an omission, especially where large and numerous paragraphs are literally copied from preceding writers, we cannot but think exceptionable. Had the author more uniformly taken the materials, and wrought them up with his own skilful hand, his work would have had greater symmetry in its parts, and more uniformity in its style. A handsome edifice might, doubtless, be constructed by dilapidations from the Temple at Ephesus, the Lycæum at Athens, and the Pantheon at Rome; it would not, however, escape the strictures of a connoisseur, who could trace the marble to its quarry, distinguish the diversity of style and orders of architecture, and assign the component parts to their original fabricks. Similar strictures might here be easily made; but we content ourselves with discountenancing a method of compiling history, which tends to cramp genius, to prevent originality of composition, to make, in short, mere copyists, instead of such historians as have rendered Greece and Rome immortal. We know Thucydides and Xenophon, Livy and Tacitus, even in fragments. Every historian should have his own character, and preserve it. Dr. Ramsay had no need of plagiarism. He had judgment and skill, and was master of an excellent historick style. His professional and other engagements might not allow him to do more with his materials; and it may have been his intention to give the authorities. In the History of the Revolution, his originality sufficiently appears; and the grace, which it imparts to that portion of the work, makes us the more regret, that it did not accompany the whole. Compilation may resemble the bird, in fable, bedecked with foreign plumes; but this indulgence is not given to a work, claiming to be original. History should resemble the Nile, that receives, indeed, numerous tributary currents, but intermingles them in one undistinguishable and majestick stream.

To these remarks, extorted from us by a regard to present literary justice, and to future literary improvement, it is with pleasure we add, that so much of the colonial history is given in the first of these volumes, as to prepare the reader, who has not either opportunity, or leisure, for consulting the local histories of the colonies, to enter with advantage upon the subsequent narrative of the rise, progress, and termination of the revolutionary war. This portion of the history, comprised chiefly in the second volume, is substantially the same, that was previously published in two small octavo volumes, but improved in the arrangement, and by occasional additions. The character of this part of the work is so well established, that we respectfully pass by it, simply expressing our belief, that it will always hold a distinguished rank in the historical productions of our country.

Of the last volume, nine chapters were written by Dr. Ramsay. The three first of these chapters complete the revolutionary history, to which succeeds the Civil History of the United States. In this additional history the author appears, again, in his own original character, and is highly interesting. A clear account is given of the origin, completion, and adoption of the Constitution of the United States; of the principles, policy, and measures of the national government; and of the most important occurrences in our domestick and foreign relations. The wisdom of the statesman, the patriotism of the citizen, and the fidelity of the historian, are every where apparent. The candour of Dr. Ramsay deserves peculiar commendation. Though of strict republican principles, he gives a very impartial account of Jay's treaty, of the inflammable affair of Genet, and of the extraordinary mission to France. His concluding remark on that treaty, which, at the time, was pronounced by many to be pregnant with evil, is worthy of a Christian historian; 'This magnanimous policy closed all grounds of controversy, growing out of the war of the revolution. The beneficial effects, resulting therefrom, evinced the wisdom of accommodating disputes by moderation and reciprocal concession, in preference to deciding them by the sword.'

The manner, in which the subject of impressments is treated, is highly honourable to the author's feelings, judgment, and principles.

'Good humour began to return between the two countries; but it was not of long duration. One impediment stood in the way of

a perfectly good understanding. The right of searching American ships, and of impressing British sailors from them, is so strongly claimed by one, and so firmly resisted by the other, that a compromise, on middle ground, is next to impossible. Both are right, on the principles they, respectively, adopt. To the right of expatriation and the freedom of the Ocean, the Americans, from principle and interest, are friendly. On the same grounds, the British are opposed to both, and claim their native sailors, wherever found, as national property. Proceeding on these ideas, the British search neutral vessels, and impress from them such sailors, as are supposed to be born within the limits of their empire. The Americans are tenacious of their sovereignty; the British of their existence, which they consider as involved in the support of their navy. From the collisions of principles and interest, there is an increased irritation kept up between the two countries, whenever Britain is involved in war, and her peace endangered, by the indiscreet or arbitrary conduct of wrong-headed individuals. With the most honest intentions, frequent mistakes must unavoidable happen. This results from the sameness of language, and often of dialect. It is a well-known fact, that the American born children, of Irish and Scotch emigrants to the United States, often retain so much of the peculiar accent of their parents, that they might honestly be mistaken, for natives of Scotland or Ireland. In deciding on the political condition of these and others, questions both of law and fact are determined by hot-headed naval officers, acting as judges, juries, and executioners. From their decisions there is no appeal.' pp. 81, 82.

The remarks and counsels, at the close of the twenty-ninth and thirty-third chapters, deserve the attention of United America. The following is the conclusion of the last chapter, written by Dr. Ramsay.

‘That peace has been preserved, between the United States and Britain, for the twenty-five years subsequently to the treaty of 1783, proves the general practicability of avoiding war. It seldom happens, that there are so many points of irritation, as existed between the two countries, for nearly the whole of that period. Britain viewed the Americans as ungrateful subjects, who, by the interference of the French, had succeeded in an unprovoked rebellion. The latter considered the former as, at first, an unkind stepmother; afterwards, a cruel enemy; next, a bad neighbour; and, lastly, an insolent, overbearing, naval power, hostile to equal maritime rights. Each charged the other with having broken the treaty. The British denounced the Americans, as a people devoid of common honesty, in neglecting the payment of

their just debts. The latter retorted, that the former, in violation of the treaty of 1783, retained, for twelve years, possession of military posts, within the United States; illegally captured their vessels; impressed their seamen; encouraged the Indians to deeds of desolation and murder; and the Barbary powers, in their piratical expeditions. For several years, hatred to England, and good wishes for the successes of her enemy and rival, France, extensively prevailed. With all these, and other excitements to contention, the relations of peace were preserved between the two countries. As this has been effected, in opposition to so many obstacles, by a spirit of accommodation, final justice, and temporary forbearance, no doubt can exist of the practicability, in most cases, of extinguishing wars, in embryo, if nations, generally, in their intercourse with each other, guided themselves by these noble principles.

‘Pursuing this line of conduct, the United States, with the exception of petty wars with barbarians, on their own frontier, and on the coast of Africa, have been preserved in peace, ever since the termination of their revolution, from colonies to states. For the greatest part of this period, equal to the quarter of a century, the nations of Europe have been drenched in blood. The men, destroyed by their wars, would have constituted nations. The treasure expended would have converted wildernesses into gardens; swamps and marshes into fertile fields. It would have levelled or perforated mountains; extended inland navigation, to an incalculable extent; connected rivers, lakes, seas, and oceans with each other; and, in a variety of ways, promoted human happiness. While they were wasting their energies, in mutual destruction, the citizens of the United States, enjoying the blessings of peace, have been employed in making arrangements for the diffusion of knowledge and religion; in reforming and improving their civil institutions, for the better government of their people. Their population has increased, from three millions to six; their commerce, from small beginnings, to be superior to that of every other nation in the world, one only excepted. Their revenue has increased, from an inconsiderable sum to the annual amount of sixteen millions of dollars. Their exports have nearly doubled in price, and trebled in quantity; while their manufactures were daily extending. Such have been the effects of peace and independence in America. Happy citizens of the United States! thrice happy will you be, if you continue to walk in the paths of peace, and prudence, and virtue, which you have hitherto trodden.’ pp. 86—88.

The editor having supplied what the author had omitted, on the ‘Relations of the United States with the Barbary Powers,

and the affairs in which Aaron Burr was implicated; the continuators proceed with the history from 1808 to the treaty of Ghent, in December, 1814. If the narration of facts be correct, the spirit of Ramsay is 'found wanting.' It was composed, perhaps, too near the time of the events which it records, to admit of a cool, philosophical recital. The original historian, however, had presented to his successors a fair model, which, if it were merely for the preservation of that *uniformity* and *consistency*, required by the Roman critic, they should have more closely imitated.

——— 'servetur ad imum
Qualis ab incepto processerit, et sibi constet.'

A precept of the same well known author, to preserve a work in manuscript nine years, might, perhaps have been profitably observed;

'Nonum prematur in annum,
Membranis intus positus.'

If it would not have essentially affected the body, it might have softened the spirit of the work.

The history of the origin of the war between the United States and Great Britain is drawn up too much in the style of an advocate. A sip of the waters of Lethe may, occasionally, be useful to historians, as well as to those who are accustomed to the waters of Helicon. To know what to forget, is often more difficult than to know what to remember. Dryden tells us,

'Poets lose half the praise they would have got,
Were it but known what they discreetly blot.'

Why may not this be said, also, of prose writers? Much of the preliminary history of this war is discreetly obliterated.

The events of the war are recorded with apparent accuracy, but with a minuteness, disproportionate alike to the magnitude of the subject, and to the other parts of the work. The occurrences of two years and a half occupy about two hundred pages. It is a narrative, however, which, liable as it is to some exceptions from critics and statesmen, exhibits the spirit of our soldiery, and especially the enterprise, skill, and valour of our seamen, in a light, well adapted to command the admiration, not of Britain only, but of all Europe. In its present form, it may better please soldiers and mariners, and

such citizens as love the sound of national glory ; but we should prefer the succinct manner of Thucydides, of Sallust, and of Tacitus. A deeper tinge, too, of Ramsay's mildness and philanthropy would have heightened our estimate of the performance. The burning of an Indian town and village is mentioned without stricture ; and an outrage, that excited universal horror, is called ' a signal violation of the peace,' and an ' unfortunate occurrence.'

To whatever exceptions the war itself is liable, the results will, we hope, as our historians believe, prove ultimately favourable to neutral rights, and lessen, if not prevent, those evils, of which we have so long and so justly complained. The inflation of national pride, however, would be a serious and portentous evil. When we call to mind the *ambition* of former republicks, we deprecate the effects of this passion, should it be a characteristick of our own. We could have wished, that something similar to what we have observed of the pacifick spirit, principles, and counsels of the first of our historians, at the close of his part of the work, had appeared at the conclusion of the whole ; but we find the reverse. The American eagle is exhibited, as ready to unclench her arrows, rather than as holding forth her olive branch. Believing, as we do, that war is the greatest enemy to liberty, we cannot but consider the pacifick policy, recommended by the venerable Ramsay, adapted to make a republick free, prosperous and happy. But sage historians seem destined, like Cassandra, not to be believed, until events prove the wisdom of their counsels, and the truth of their predictions. *Troja fuit.*

As a specimen of the style and manner of the Continuators of Ramsay, we give the following extract, relative to commodore Perry's victory.

'The ocean is the usual scene of naval conflict ; but Perry and Barclay met on the bosom of Erie. Over its waves their two governments claimed common jurisdiction in the time of peace ; and in war each aspired to its exclusive exercise. The commanders built and equipped their respective squadrons. Barclay had the advantage of time in the beginning, and the advantage of force, when the contest ceased to be a competition of artizans. He eagerly sought his rival, as early as informed of his departure from Erie, with full confidence in his advantages. His vessels had been trimmed, and his men seasoned, in a previous cruise around the lake ; an advantage professional men would consider almost a guarantee of victory, against a squadron of equal force just out of

port. But the mind of commodore Perry overlooked the whole with a steady regard to the consequences ; and, in the greatest extremity, enabled him so to combine manœuvre with force, as to wrest success from his opponent. No one can doubt that the issue of the memorable contest is to be ascribed to the superiour abilities of the American commander, and the skill and valour of his comrades.' pp. 249, 250.

There is a passage in the Continuation, which, to say nothing more, violates the dignity of history. 'The imagination, rioting in the glory of New Orleans, shrinks from a glance at its contrast in the tame surrender to the enemy of Eastport, Castine, and Machias.' It is altogether of a poetical cast, and must be so understood. But, as it is inserted in a historical work, it is proper to observe, that the writer appears to have known nothing of the geographical position of these villages, situated in an extreme part of the United States ; of their proximity to the British settlements ; of the depth of the waters by which they are accessible ; of the smallness of their population ; of their remoteness from the capital, and from every section, of Massachusetts Proper ; of the impracticability of raising, on a sudden emergency, a sufficient number of troops to repel armed ships ; and of the insignificancy of these places, compared with the capital of Louisiana. Had the enemy made a successful descent on the petty island of Ossabaw or St. Catherine's in Georgia, or at Montauk Point, the imagination might as easily have made out a contrast, and shrunk from the glance.

In the Continuation, we were sorry to find the word 'fortune' frequently used, instead of 'Providence.' One instance, after a very handsome description of Perry's victory, is the more striking, when contrasted with his own official account, equally distinguished for its brevity, modesty, and piety. The style of the victor is, 'It has pleased the Almighty to give to the arms of the United States a signal victory over their enemies on this lake.' The style of the historian is, 'Whatever of good fortune presided over it, was on the side of the British squadron ; and under its auspices, at one moment, commodore Barclay had good reason to expect the award of victory in his favour ; but to the advantages of superiour force, greater numbers, and previous discipline, commodore Perry opposed energy, patriotism, valour, and enterprise. The verdict was signally in his favour. The palm was decreed to the arms of the United States.' Here the goddess Fortune has all the attributes

with which she was ever arrayed in heathen mythology, with the addition of others, that belonged to the Fatal Sisters. She 'presides over' the issue of the battle; the British commodore fights 'under her auspices;' she pronounces 'the verdict;' and, finally, she 'decrees the palm.' This is placing the reader, in good earnest, on classick ground. It had, however, been more classical, more laconick, and more intelligible to have said, at once, with Virgil,

'Sic volvere Parcas.'

The frequent appeal to those passions, which are the brigin of wars, is adapted to excite a love of military glory; but it does not accord with the spirit and character of the religion of the Prince of peace. When the reader meets with 'a proud day,' 'a proud triumph,' and 'proudest hopes,' and is told that 'he will now be introduced to scenes,' where 'he will find results on which the American people may reflect with pride;' he will conclude, that the respectable divine, whose name stands at the head of the literary associates, sometimes 'nodded,' as well as Homer, if he were not, occasionally, even a 'sleeping partner.'

The style of Dr. Ramsay is justly characterised in the Memoir of his Life. The writer of it 'speaks the opinion of men well qualified to judge, when he says that 'as a historian Ramsay is faithful, judicious, and impartial; that his style is classical and chaste; and if occasionally tinctured by originality of idea, or singularity of expression, it is perfectly free from affected obscurity, or laboured ornament. Its energy of thought is tempered by its simplicity and beauty of style.'

Between this and the style of the Continuators we perceive a difference, while the predominant character of each is highly respectable. The one has more simplicity; the other has more force. That is distinguished for perspicuity; this, for animation. The language of the first is more pure; that of the last, more elevated. The construction in the one is more natural; in the other, more rhetorical. The one has fewer graces; the other has more faults. In the one, we seldom find occasion for verbal criticism; in the other, not unfrequently. Specimens of what appear to us faults in the style, are subjoined.

In the first volume, we object to *eventuated*, *renitency*, *captivated*, for captured, *aforehand*, *knack*, *auxiliary aids*; in the

third volume, in the Continuation, chiefly, we object to *bring about, cast about, counted on, shoved against, resentment exasperated, suspicions afloat, deep stake, infuriated fanaticism, undertook responsibility, prodigal of heroism, progressed, dashed upon the retreating Indians, jaded* [applied to men after a rapid march,] *peppered* [by grape shot,] *patriotick apostolick administrator of the diocese of Louisiana.**

These blemishes are observed, not to detract a particle from the value of the work, but to encourage and promote that classical purity, which is justly required in literary productions, and for the want of which the severest strictures have been made in Europe, upon American publications. The faults of admired authors are apt to be imperceptibly copied.

‘Decipit exemplar vitiis imitabile.’

We wish to see our language cultivated, together with the arts and sciences, that America may have her classical historians, as well as her philosophers and poets. In the progress of improvement, however, we believe no time can be predicted, when the volumes before us will not be viewed as an ornament to our libraries, and an honour to our country.



ART. XII. *Vegetable Materia Medica of the United States, or Medical Botany, containing a botanical, general and medical history of the medicinal plants indigenous to the United States. Illustrated by coloured engravings. By William P. C. Barton, M. D. &c. Professor of Botany in Pennsylvania University. No. 1. Philadelphia, M. Carey & Son, 1817. 4to. pp. 76, plates 6.*

American Medical Botany, being a collection of the native medicinal plants of the United States, containing their botanical history and chemical analysis, and properties and uses in Medicine, Diet and the Arts, with coloured engravings. By Jacob Bigelow, M. D. Rumford Professor and Lecturer on Materia Medica and Botany, in Harvard University. University Press, Hilliard & Metcalf, 1817. No. 1. royal 8vo. pp. 110, plates 10.

WE have in previous numbers devoted some of the pages of this journal to notices of works on natural science, which

* We observe an error in vol. i. p. 85; where Philip's war is mentioned as *already* related; but the relation is subsequent, pp. 256-8.